



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 23 March 2016  
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ENV 172  
ONU 27  
DEVGEN 45  
ECOFIN 232  
ENER 91  
FORETS 18  
AGRI 140  
MAR 95  
AVIATION 49  
COMPET 133

**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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62 final

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Subject: Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the  
Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention  
on Climate change  
- Adoption

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1. The Paris Agreement was adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 21), which took place in Paris from 30 November to 12 December 2015. The Agreement will be open for signature by the Parties to the UNFCCC between 22 April 2016 and 21 April 2017. A high-level signature ceremony will take place in New York on 22 April 2016.
2. On 3 March 2016, the Commission submitted to the Council the above proposal. The proposal is based on Art. 192(1) in conjunction with Art. 218(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

3. On 11 March 2016 the Working Party on the Environment (WPE) considered the Commission proposal and the Presidency draft of the Council Decision based on the Commission proposal. The text resulting from this discussion and as set out in the JL document 7106/16 is acceptable to all delegations and the Commission.
  4. The aim of the draft Council Decision is that the Council authorises, firstly, the signing, on behalf of the EU, of the Paris Agreement, secondly, the Presidency to designate the person(s) empowered to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Union.
  5. The Committee of Permanent Representatives is invited to recommend that the Council adopts the Decision as set out in the JL document 7106/16 as an "A" item and informs the European Parliament of the adoption of this Decision.
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